

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01

PA-04 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2341

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJ: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: FURTHER REACTION TO FONSEC'S
NOTE ON BRACERO ISSUE.

REFS: A. MEXICO 5240 B. MEXICO 5239

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR TODAY, JOSE PINTADO, PRESIDENT OF BANKERS' ASSOCIATION, AND OTHER PROMINENT BANKING FIGURES COMMENTED ON RABASA INITIATIVE ON BRACEROS. PINTADO COMMENTED THAT IN HIS VIEW INITIATIVE CAME FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA NOT RABASA. HE NOTED PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BORDER AREA (MATAMOROS AND NUEVO LAREDO) A FEW DAYS AGO AND SPECULATED THAT PERSONS OR ORGANIZATIONS IN THAT AREA UNDOUBTEDLY BROUGHT TO PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION SOMETHING RELATING TO BRACERO ISSUE WHICH LED TO FONSEC NOTE. OTHERS IN BANKERS' GROUP WHO COMMENTED ON ISSUE WERE CRITICAL OF USG RESPONSE AS REPORTED IN PRESS. THEY THOUGHT U.S. ANSWER "BEFORE TEXT OF NOTE EVEN RECEIVED" WAS FLIP AND TOO HASTY.

2. EVEN THOUGH PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN IN MEXICO ARE MORE LIKELY TO RECOGNIZE REALITY OF BRACERO PROBLEM THAN MAN IN STREET, THEIR REACTION TO USG RESPONSE MENTIONED ABOVE IS SIGNIFICANT AND STRENGTHENS OUR VIEW (SEE REFTEL B) THAT U.S.
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RESPONSE THOUGH PROMPT SHOULD BE DELIBERATE. PENDING FORM-

ULATION OF OUR RESPONSE, PERHAPS ANY FURTHER COMMENTS ON
BRACERO ISSUE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED IN THE LIGHT OF
THE REACTION REPORTED ABOVE.
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